

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee

November 2, 2001

Minutes

1. Members present: Stephen Sims, (Chair), Steve David, Jim Payne, Mary Beth Bonaventura, Viola Taliferro, Tim Crowley, Paulette Stagg, Dan Pflum, Lynn Murray
2. Staff present: Anne Jordan
3. Guests: Jim Hmurovich, Eric Vermuellen, and Stephanie Beasley-Furman, Division of Family and Children
4. Recent Legislative Activity: Judge David reported on the Interim Study Committee on Civil and Family Law Issues. The Interim Committee recommended that a Commission be formed consisting of Legislators, Juvenile Court Judges, Department of Education, Division of Family and Children, Public Defenders, Prosecutors, and CASAs to study revisions to the juvenile code. The Commission would sunset in two years. The Final Report of the Interim Study Committee creating this Commission will be sent to all members of the JJIC when released.
5. Matter of B.J.W.: Judge Payne discussed the Aonce waived always waived@ appeal pending in Tippecanoe County. The committee agreed that the Prosecutor should have filed the case in adult court first, then asked the Juvenile Court to accept jurisdiction.
6. Secure Detention: Jim Hmurovich, Director of the Division of Family and Children, told the committee that he has met with 10-12 counties individually to try and come up with a solution to the payment for secure detention costs. In at least 5 counties, Mr. Hmurovich determined that additional funds would help the probation departments provide services earlier to children, thus saving the county the expense of a high cost placement later. He stressed the need for child welfare staff and probation staff to participate in cross-training activities and to share files as needed. He is also working on an updated Needs Assessment document for delinquent children.

Judge Payne asked why licensing for Marion County Foster Parents now takes 6 months? This has an adverse effect on I-VE reimbursements. Mr. Hmurovich replied that a new training curriculum has been adopted, causing a back-log. He agreed to schedule additional training until the backlog was caught up. Eric and Stephanie are to be invited back to the JJIC in February or March to provide an update on the progress.

All knew this was Jim Hmurovich=s last meeting before he leaves DFC, and he was thanked by the committee for his dedication to children over the years.

7. Juvenile Justice Task Force: The committee was advised that the letter inviting them to

attend a conference on December 3 was from Bill Glick at the Juvenile Justice Task Force. The committee then reviewed the one-page document A Guide to Secure Detention Decision-Making created by the Juvenile Justice Task Force. There was discussion regarding the last two columns concerning the statement And no restrictions on holding. Judge David agreed to take the concern back to the Task Force. He will also request that the Juvenile Justice Task Force= agency appear as part of the document before it is distributed to juvenile court judges.

8. Juvenile Judges Conference: The 2002 Annual Conference for Juvenile Court Judges is back in Brown County. Judge Pflum suggested we look at the counties with Riverboat Casinos, such as Vevay and Switzerland, for future conference sites. No one is interested in a Provider Fair. Discussion was had regarding Karen Grau=s project. It is presently scheduled to air on MSNBC on December 3. No date has been set for broadcast on A Dateline. The events of September 11 affected the project. Other topics: Maximizing I-VE funding for delinquents; paternity and the interplay with adoption issues; paternity and the effect on children; whether permanency is leading to instability in children; Family Court pilot projects; and a discussion of the problems in the juvenile code with the members of the Commission that will be created by the Interim Study Committee on Civil and Family Law Issues. Finally, a suggestion was made to have A advanced juvenile law topics.
9. CIP Report: Anne Jordan reported on the nine new subgrants that have just been awarded. These projects consist of Family Court mediation, establishing a pre-hearing facilitation program and a resource room, funding a case manager position, and enhancement of existing Quest systems.
10. Memorandum from the Chief Justice dated October 18: A brief discussion was held regarding the memo of the Chief Justice concerning the state taking over the funding of the judicial system. Some of the concerns of the juvenile judges include:
 - \$ Many local courts will be eliminated and judicial districts created in their place
 - \$ Effect on judicial independence, with particular regard to the ties with the child welfare agencies
 - \$ May change the process of how judges are selected
 - \$ May affect the amount of attention the juvenile issues presently receive
 - \$ Small county staff will benefit financially
11. Ex Parte: Judge Payne queried the committee about how they handle letters received from children, parents, and other parties, whether a case is pending or not; in light of *In re Anonymous*. Included in these letters often are death threats and requests for a review hearing. This topic will be touched upon at the December conference.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Jordan,

Staff Attorney